

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
Environmental Protection Commission**

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**ITEM**

**8**

**DECISION**

**TOPIC      Contract – MSA Professional Services – Wastewater Technology Guidance**

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The Environmental Protection Commission is requested to approve a contract between the Department and MSA Professional Services. This contract is for a six-months duration.

The funding for this contract comes from a set-aside from EPA 319 funds. The contract is for \$99,500. The contractor will create five specific wastewater technology guidance documents specified by the department.

The Department has been working with stakeholders to make sewerage small communities more economically feasible. One aspect of this work is to consider all of the alternative technologies available. Other states are using technologies to sewer small communities that are historically used primarily in onsite systems. Iowa has just started this approach. It has been difficult for consulting engineers to design such applications and for Department's engineers to issue permits to such applications. The main reason for this difficulty is that technologies commonly used for municipal wastewater treatment systems are specified in the "Great Lakes Upper Mississippi River Board 10-State Standards." Engineers in private consulting business and the Department utilize and depend on those standards. However, those technologies covered under the "10-State Standards" are often too expensive for smaller unsewered communities. Engineers do not have design guidance for the alternative technologies such as those used historically for onsite wastewater treatment systems. In order to improve efficiency for both designing and for permitting, guidance manuals need to be created for Iowa's climate and regulations.

Nine bids were received for this RFP. Three of them only bid on three of the five technologies. We had several Iowa companies, some Midwest companies and some from as far away as Massachusetts and Texas. The chosen bidder is headquartered in Wisconsin but has Iowa offices including one in the Des Moines area. One advantage that they have is having worked under Midwest conditions.

In addition to the design guidance documents, the contractor will conduct a seminar this fall for private consulting engineers and Departmental staff reviewing the development and use of the manuals.

Brent Parker  
Environmental Engineer Senior  
Wastewater Operations Section  
Water Quality Bureau  
Environmental Services Division